Suspension of former Registrar of Delhi High Court

546. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the former Registrar of Delhi High Court suspended;

(b) what were the charges against him;

(c) whether any CBI probe is pending against him; and

(d) what steps are being taken to look into the charges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) He was suspended on 16-4-1984.

(b) There were 10 charges for various allegations about omissions and commissions in the discharge of his official and judicial duties.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The disciplinary enquiry proceedings are pending before the Enquiry Officer.

Losses of I.D.P.L.

547. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accumulated losses of the public sector Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited have so far risen to Rs. 140 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that these losses are mainly due to the failure on the part of the top management;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been acute differences among the top management;

(d) whether Government have attempted to reduce the losses and bring the IDPL on sound footing; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (d) and (e) The losses are due to various factors such as under utilisation of the installed capacity resulting from demand constraints and power/water shortage, technological problems, higher cost of production from basic stage and a product-mix predominently comprising Category I and II bulk drugs and formulations with low mark-up.

Remedial steps being taken include plugging of loop-holes in Import Policy, which inhibit production and capacity utilisation, ensuring adequate availability of working capital, raw materials and intermediates and attempts to up-grade technology.

(c) No, Sir.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders

548. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of LPG cylinders in the country;

(b) whether Government have planned suitable programme for the supply of LPG cylinders to meet the growing demand of consumers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Association of manufacturers of LPG cylinders have complained that several manufacturing units are unable to comply with the supply orders due to non-supply of valves for LPG cylinders; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that cylinders worth crores of rupees are piled up in such factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total production of LPG cylinders during 1984-85 having been in excess of the requirement of the oil companies, some cylinder inventories developed with some manufacturers. The quantity and value of such stocks has not been reported to the oil industry by the units.

548. [*Transferred to the 1st August, 1985.*]

Recommendations of Election Commission on Electoral Reforms

550. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Election Commission which were submitted to Government in June 1985 after the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections;

(b) what were its precise observations regarding booth capturing and other malpractices in Bihar; and

(c) what steps are contemplated on these recommendations to free the elections from malpractices that have been brought to the notice of Government by the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) The fresh recommendations of the Election Commission regarding electoral reforms are contained in the Second Annual Report of the Commission (pages 77-84) which was laid on the Table of the House on the 13th May, 1985. Some of the more important recommendations are detailed in the attached statement.

(b) Suggestions regarding 'booth capturing' are continued in Item No. 6 of the statement. (*See below*)

(c) The recommendations of the Commission have been received recently by the Government and are considered. The Election Commission has also sought the views of political parties on the important recommendations. Government are anxious to put through electoral reforms as early as possible and would so after consulting all political parties and other representative bodies.

Statement

Proposals for Electoral Reforms

(1) *Elimination of non-serious candidates:*

(a) Security deposit may be raised ten times.

(b) A candidate who fails to secure 20 per cent of the valid votes polled may be disqualified.

(c) The minimum number of votes required for refund of security deposit may be increased from one-sixth to one-fourth.

(d) The facilities like priority allotment of telephone connections immunity from requisition of vehicles subsidised supply of paper for printing posters, etc. will not be available to independent candidates.

(e) Part of the election expenses of candidates sponsored by recognised political parties